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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3340

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000496

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: KUWAIT REVIEW OF TITLE III SUSPENSION OF LIBERTAD
ACT

REF: SECSTATE 48487

¶1. (U) The following is post's response to reftel on implementation of Title III of the LIBERTAD Act.

¶2. (SBU) Cuba has a diplomatic presence in Kuwait, but the GOK does not maintain a mission in Cuba. Relations between the two countries have been somewhat strained since the 1990-91 Gulf War when Cuba objected to UN/U.S./Coalition "interference" to liberate Kuwait. According to the Kuwait Investment Authority, there are no GOK investments in Cuba, and no known private Kuwaiti investments. Kuwait and Cuba have not signed any bilateral trade agreements, and data from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce reveals limited trade with Cuba. According to the most recent data available from the Council of Ministers' General Secretariat for Planning and Development, Cuban exports to Kuwait (overwhelmingly cigars) amounted to KD 50,863 (approx USD 176,000) in 2006. There are negligible Kuwait exports to Cuba.

¶3. (SBU) There are no exchange programs between Kuwait and Cuba. The GOK does provide scholarships for Kuwaiti students to attend college abroad, but Post is unaware of any Kuwaitis enrolled in Cuban colleges. Similarly, the GOK provides for medical treatment abroad, but Post is unaware of any Kuwaitis who have sought or received medical treatment in Cuba. Post is unaware of any Cuban doctors working in Kuwait.

¶4. (SBU) Post is not aware of any actions taken, or statements made, by GOK officials to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba, to condemn human rights abuses in Cuba, or to support civil society in Cuba.

¶5. (SBU) On April 14, 2008, Cuban Minister of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation Martha Lomas was hosted by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Other than meetings with the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce, Post is unaware of other private or official engagements by Minister Lomas while in Kuwait last year.

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